

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

Terry Mathews
1-800-256-4485

Louisiana 2002 Crop Acreage and Production

Although several Louisiana crops had the potential for record yields or production in 2002, only corn production set a new state record. The crop year was marred by several factors, including a very dry spring, a late farm bill, and an extremely wet harvesting season. All of these combined to lower production levels and increase abandonment, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service.

Production of **corn for grain** is estimated at 68.3 million bushels, up 50 percent from 2001. This is the highest level of production ever recorded in the state. Total acres planted are estimated at 580,000, up 84 percent from 2001. An estimated 560,000 acres were harvested for grain, up 82 percent from 2001. Yield per acre, at 122 bushels, was 26 bushels below 2001.

Cotton production is estimated at 750,000 bales, down 27 percent from the previous year. An estimated 520,000 acres were planted in 2002, down 40 percent from last year. Louisiana farmers harvested an estimated 495,000 acres, down 42 percent from last year. Yield per acre was 727 pounds, an increase of 147 pounds from 2001.

All rice production is estimated at 29.4 million cwt, down 2 percent from the previous year. Production of long grain varieties is estimated at 28.9 million cwt, and production of medium grain varieties is estimated at 525,000 cwt. Planted acreage for rice is estimated at 540,000 acres, down 1 percent from 2001. Rice harvested acreage is estimated at 535,000 acres, down 2 percent from 2001. The statewide yield averaged 5,500 pounds per acre, tying the record set last year. Record keeping for rice yield began in 1895.

Production of **sorghum for grain** is estimated at 13.4 million bushels compared to 17.9 million in 2001. Total planted acreage is estimated at 180,000 acres, of which 165,000 acres were harvested for grain. Yield per acre, at 81 bushels, was down 4 bushels from 2001.

Soybean production is estimated at 20.8 million bushels, up 3 percent from 2001. Total planted acreage was up 23 percent from a year earlier to an estimated 790,000 acres. Louisiana farmers harvested an estimated 650,000 acres. Yield per acre, at 32 bushels, was down 1 bushel from 2001.

Sugarcane production for sugar and seed is estimated at 14.4 million net tons, unchanged from 2001. Yield per acre, at 29 net tons, was also unchanged from a year ago.

Sweet potato production is estimated at 1.88 million cwt, down 39 percent from 2001. An estimated 21,000 acres were planted in 2002, down 12 percent from 2001. Harvested acreage is estimated at 15,000 acres, down 32 percent from 2001. Yield per acre at 125 cwt, was down 15 cwt per acre from a year earlier.

All hay production in 2002 is estimated at 1.13 million tons compared to 1.26 million the previous year. An estimated 450,000 acres were harvested in 2002, unchanged from the previous year. Yield was 2.5 tons per acre, 0.3 tons below last year.

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CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA
January 1, 2003

CROP	HARVESTED ACRES (000)		YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2001
	2001	2002	2001	2002		2001	2002	
Corn for grain	307	560	148	122	bushels	45,436	68,320	+50
Upland Cotton	855	495	580	727	lbs: bales	1,034	750	-27
Rice	546	535	5,500	5,500	cwt	30,014	29,400	-2
Sorghum for grain	210	165	85	81	bushels	17,850	13,365	-25
Soybeans	610	650	33	32	bushels	20,130	20,800	+3
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	495	495	29	29	net tons	14,355	14,355	---
Sweet Potatoes	22	15	140	125	cwt	3,080	1,875	-39
Hay, all	450	450	2.8	2.5	tons	1,260	1,125	-11

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES
January 1, 2003

CROP	HARVESTED ACRES (000)		YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2001
	2001	2002	2001	2002		2001	2002	
Corn for grain	68,808	69,313	138.2	120.0	bushels	9,506,840	9,007,659	-5
Upland Cotton	13,559.5	12,171.0	694	651	lbs: bales	19,602.4	16,496.0	-16
Rice	3,314	3,207	6,429	6,578	cwt	215,270	210,960	-2
Sorghum for grain	8,584	7,299	59.9	50.7	bushels	514,524	369,758	-28
Soybeans	72,975	72,160	39.6	37.8	bushels	2,890,682	2,729,709	-6
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	1,028.0	1,026.1	33.7	35.0	net tons	34,587	35,932	+4
Sweet Potatoes	94.4	83.3	155	150	cwt	14,637	12,498	-15
Hay, all	63,521	64,497	2.47	2.34	tons	156,764	150,962	-4

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